

NOVEMBER 30, 2009

An informal discussion began with Town Administrator T. Joseph Almond, due to a lack of a quorum, at 6:40 p.m. Commission members present were Arthur S. Russo, Paul St. Germain and Fausto Anguilla.

The official meeting was opened at 6:50 p.m. when a quorum was reached, and all members were present at 7:00 p.m.

Town Administrator Almond told the Commission that he was making the process of his department heads review of the Charter part of his weekly department meetings. The Administrator feels this will help to coordinate the process and keep it on a positive track. The Administrator feels the Charter needs a lot of housekeeping (which does not need to be forwarded to the voters) and has asked his department heads to focus on the areas within their control, but to also know that the process is open to areas outside of their realm. The Town Administrator feels that the current Government as a structure is working well and that the Charter has bode well for the Town, but there are areas that could serve as a hindrance. The Administrator cited Article XIII – Personnel, as an example of an area that needs to be brought up to current standards. Most functions in this area are performed by the Personnel Director and now conflict with this section of the Charter. The Administrator suggested that the Commission visit ordinances that connect to the Charter.

Commissioner St. Germain was in agreement with this and stated that he was looking at this section as well.

The Commission asked the Administrator if the second Monday in January would allow him sufficient time to gather information for the Commission. The Administrator felt this was enough time and the Commission will schedule a hearing for the Town Administrator and Department Heads for January 11, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Fausto Anguilla told the Commission that the Charter was a good document as a whole, but was different than an ordinance. He stated that it broadly sets forth what can and cannot be done and that you do not want to hamstring future leaders with the document. Attorney Anguilla feels the Commission should delve into areas that are important to the people of the Town.

Commissioner Booth stated that the Charter is a liberal document and things can be worked out through ordinance. He felt it was important that a councilor was on the commission, as it could help the council know how the commission arrived at their recommendations.

Dr. Stewart asked the Administrator about Regionalization and the Budget in regards to the school department. He would like to see more input from the administration and council on the school budget.

The Administrator said that he had no recommendations, but some of these areas may be addressed on the State level and not the local level.

There was a short discussion on Twin River and that the town was well funded by the facility.

The commission reviewed the minutes from the November 10, 2009 meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes passed (LN-RS) with Commissioners Booth and Russo abstaining as they were not present at the meeting.

Motion to nominate Kenneth Booth as vice chair passed unanimously. (PSG-RS)

It was suggested that the minutes and agendas be emailed to the Commission prior to the meeting.

The commission filed the communication from the Probate Judge.

Motion to send communication to council requesting individual points of interest and concerns be forwarded to the commission prior to their meeting with the commission. (PSG-RS)

There was a discussion in regards to meeting with Boards and Commissions. It was suggested that when letters are sent in regards to meeting with the commission, that members of the boards and commissions with minority opinions be encouraged to attend the meeting.

The commission set a January 4, 2010 meeting date at 6:30 p.m. with the Town Council.

The commission set a January 11, 2010 meeting date at 6:30 p.m. with the Town Administrator and Department Heads.

The commission set a January 25, 2010 meeting date at 6:30 p.m. for any pour over discussions from the previous meeting.

The commission set a tentative schedule for the second and fourth Mondays of the month for all future meetings.

The commission set a tentative date of March 1, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. for a public hearing.

Motion to adjourn passed unanimously. (LN-RS)

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.